

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendment is respectfully requested. The amendment places the application in condition for allowance and is, therefore, appropriate under Rule 116.

By the present amendment, claims 1 and 8 are canceled, and claims 2, 4, 7, 9, and 20-21 are amended.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Claims 9-19 were not rejected over the prior art. They were only rejected as being dependent on a rejected base independent claim, and were indicated as being allowable upon having been amended or rewritten in independent form and to include all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 9, which was amended to include the subject matter of claim 1 and claim 8, on which it directly depended, and claims 10-19, dependent on claim 9, are now allowable.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 2-7 and 20-22 amended to depend on claim 9, directly or indirectly, are also allowable as being dependent on an allowable subject-matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawing be further amended or corrected in formal respects, in order to place in case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction be carried out by Examiner's amendment and the case passed issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully Submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on July 1, 2004.

Signature: 